



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY ZIMMERMAN

SEASONS CHANGE, BUT COMMITMENT TO SERVE DOES NOT!

Once the celebrations of the Fourth of July are behind us we have the tendencies to start cramming as much summer fun as we can into our calendars.

We are getting close to turning the pages from summer to fall. Pools will be closing and school doors will be opening. We will be putting away the boats, jet skis, bikes, and lawn mowers and we will be getting out the rakes and servicing the snow blowers.

Our troops serving don't have the opportunity to enjoy the season changes – they work in severe cold, sudden thaws, heavy rains, great heat, and high winds as each war zone has its own special climate.

Our country's military has left a legacy like no other fighting force ever assembled. The uniforms they wear, and the flag they carry, are held in esteem wherever they have served. And that is their finest tribute. Across the world, to people who struggle and suffer, the sight of an American in uniform has meant hope, relief, and deliverance.

Our troops live and perform by a creed to serve the people of this great country by carrying out their mission. There are no seasonal distractions for them.

Whatever the season, make sure to plan time with family and friends. Make sure to remember our troops that are serving. They are the guardians of our freedom and the way of life we have come to love. We depend on their sacrifices.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary

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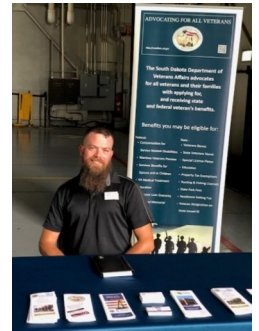


SDDVA PARTICIPATES IN FAMILY DAY

SDDVA Field Service Officer Michael Maske participated in the South Dakota Air National Guard Family Day last weekend.

Maske was on hand to brief soldiers on the numerous benefits available to them and their families.

Numerous organizations like the Department of Veterans Affairs, came out to support the event, while providing information on benefits and programs available to airmen and their family members.



FREEDOM RIDE

The Hot Springs Post 71 Legion Riders held their annual Freedom Ride this past weekend.

Riders gathered at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home before departing on their ride. This gathering afforded riders the opportunity to thank the veterans at the State Home and for residents at the Home to see the hundreds of bikes in the ride.



SITE SELECTED FOR NEW VA CLINIC IN WATERTOWN

The Sioux Falls Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care System has awarded a lease for a new site for the VA Community Based Clinic (CBOC) in Watertown. Plans will now begin for the contractor, Command and Control Construction, LLC, to renovate the former Snap Fitness building at 12 19th S. NE in Watertown. Construction should start in late fall or early winter of 2018.

The current Watertown CBOC has 6,895 sq. feet; and the new clinic will add nearly 3,000 sq. feet for primary care, expanded mental health and telehealth services, as well as for physical therapy treatment.

Since the clinic's humble beginning in 2009 as a temporary mobile clinic near the National Guard Armory, it has continued to grow with the support of Watertown area veterans and the community. Currently located in the Willow Creek Plaza, VA staff serve approximately 2,300 veterans who reside in 11 surrounding communities. The new clinic will have capacity to see up to 3,000 veterans.

VA VISN 23 NETWORK DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Robert P. McDivitt, FACHE, as the new Director of the VA Midwest Health Care Network.

"We are excited to bring Mr. McDivitt on board as the new Network Director of the VA Midwest Health Network," said Mr. Patrick Kelly, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 23 Acting Director. "His sound leadership qualities and proven experience will be a valuable asset for the health care system, employees, volunteers, and most importantly, for the veterans we are honored to serve. We anticipate his arrival in the network within the next 45-60 days to begin his appointment."

Mr. McDivitt has been with the VA for over 35 years; 23 years of progressive clinical, administrative, and executive leadership in Veterans Health Administration (VHA). He has developed partnerships with health care industry leaders outside and within the VHA. He most recently served as Network Director, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 10, Ann Arbor, MI.

Mr. McDivitt holds a Master of Arts degree in Public Management/Healthcare Policy from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History/German from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. He is also board certified in healthcare management and a U.S. Army Veteran.

The VA Midwest Health Care Network, also known as Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 23, is one of 18 Health Care Systems in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Health Administration.

The Network serves more than 440,000 enrolled veterans residing in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and portions of Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Health care services are delivered through an integrated system of 9 hospitals, 69 community based outpatient clinics, 8 community living centers and 4 domiciliary residential rehabilitation treatment programs. The Network employs over 13,500 full-time employees and has an annual operating budget in excess of \$2.8 billion.



Veteran's Fall Benefit Fair

Friday September 7, 2018

Time: 2 p.m.- 6 p.m.

Location: Moose Lodge
516 W 15th Ave; Mitchell, SD

Visit with Veteran Affairs staff and
other organizations regarding

- ❖ Establishing eligibility and applying for federal or state veteran benefits (bring your DD form 214 or service number and certificate of discharge, if available)
- ❖ Get help obtaining military medals and records
- ❖ Learn about the wide range of benefits available: Compensation, Pension, Champ VA, Health Care (including telehealth), Long-term Care, Education, Veteran Home Loans, Job Training, Burial and more!
- ❖ DAV van transportation network

Free Admission and Parking

For information contact the Davison County Veteran Services
Office 605-995-8619

COMMANDER BRENDEN'S HOMECOMING

American Legion Post 17 hosted South Dakota American Legion State Commander Denny Brenden's homecoming last Saturday in Watertown.

Hundreds of Post and Auxiliary members, as well as family and friends were on hand to commemorate this celebration with Denny.

Hughes Holmes, past commander, presented Brenden



with the state commander banner.

SDDVA Field
Service Officer

Michael Maske attended on behalf of the Department.



BARREL HOUSE SUPPORTS MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT

If it's your turn to cook! Or if you want to treat the family to a night out --- here's a great opportunity.

The Barrel House in Sioux Falls (4701 E. 54th Street) is donating 10% of the day's sales on Monday, August 13, to the September Midwest Honor Flight.

Midwest Honor Flight is a non-profit organization in Northwest, Iowa, South Dakota and Southwest Minnesota dedicated to providing veterans with all expense paid trips to tour the national memorials. To learn more about the program visit: <https://www.midwesthonorflight.org/>



SDNG CONTRACTING OFFICE WINS NATIONAL AWARD

The South Dakota National Guard's Purchasing and Contracting Office and 114th MSC Base Contracting Office received the 2018 National Guard Bureau's Excellence in Contracting Award for competition in contracting at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, July 12.

South Dakota competed against contracting offices from all 54 states and territories to receive the award, which is based on the highest competition achievement rate among vendors.

To receive this award, contracting personnel must ensure they receive multiple quotes from various vendors. This creates a challenge at times because many requirements for supplies and services are identified with little notice before the required delivery date.

A high competition achievement rate means there is fair competition among vendors to purchase quality supplies and services at the lowest cost to the taxpayer.

"Funding saved through competed actions can be used to support other unit requirements," said Eisenbraun. "This award signifies the commitment our team in South Dakota has to supporting state requirements by achieving the best value and stretching our budget dollars."



LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION IS A PURPLE HEART RESERVATION

Tribal leaders, community leaders, veterans and members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, gathered this week to celebrate the dedication of Lake Traverse Reservation as a "Purple Heart Reservation." Lake Traverse Reservation is the second reservation in the nation, and the first in South Dakota, to be deemed a "Purple Heart Reservation."



"The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among combat wounded veterans, promote patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives, and most importantly, provide service to all veterans and their families, said Ken Teunissen, state commander of the MOPH."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 11—Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Celebration—Mobridge/Pollock Highschool Gym—2:00 pm (CT)
Aug 15—Sioux Falls VA Show and Shine—2501 W. 22nd Street—5:30—8:00 pm (CT)
Aug 20-24—SDDVA Benefits School—Ramkota—Pierre
Aug 24-30—American Legion National Convention—Minneapolis, MN
Aug 30—Veterans Day at the State Fair (Salute to Veterans 10:30 am (CT) Freedom Stage
Sept 1—14th Annual DAV/727th Poker Run—Brookings National Guard Armory (300 5th Street S) - 10:00 am (CT)
Sept 3—Labor Day (state offices closed)
Sept 7—Veterans Fall Benefit Fair—Moose Lodge (516 W. 15th Avenue) - Mitchell—2:00 pm—6:00 pm (CT)
Sept 7-9—PVA North Central Chapter Trap Shoot—Crooks Gun Club
Sept 10—Doug Brown Memorial Pheasant Hunt—Top Gun Hunting Ranch—Howard
Sept 11—Improving Veterans Care Conference—BHSU (4300 Cheyenne Boulevard) - Rapid City
Sept 14—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—VFW Post 1273—Rapid City—10:00 am (MT)
Sept 21—7th Annual POW/MIA Program—Sioux Falls Veterans Memorial Park (1021 W. Bailey Street) 6:30 pm (CT)
Sept 21—Veterans Stand Down—VFW (3601 S. Minnesota Avenue) - Sioux Falls—9:00 am—2:00 pm (CT)
Oct 10—SD Veterans Commission Meeting—Soldiers and Sailors Building—Pierre—8:00 am (CT)
Nov 16—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Domiciliary Auditorium—Hot Springs —10:00 am (MT)



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